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AUTHOR Coleman, A. Lee
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ABSTRACT

The summary is based on 8 tables, and on the comparison of these data with assessments of the change in the general quality of life. Data have been aggregated for the percentage of knowledgeable respondents in each county giving a certain answer. These are presented in the form of the range and the median of the county percentages in each of the 6 states (Alabama, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Tennessee) and for groupings of states. Measures are shown separately for white, minority, and total knowledgeable respondents, and for Upper South, Deep South, and individual states. Findings indicate that these observers, who are both knowledgeable about the institutional services in their counties and also in considerable degree responsible for them, feel that things have been going in the right direction in the last decade so far as education, welfare, and health are concerned. The major exception are white knowledgeable in the Deep South, many of whom feel that the public schools have been getting worse or only holding their own, which is undoubtedly related to desegregation. (KM)



Changes in Education, Health and Welfare As Perceived by County Knowledgeables

by A. Lee Coleman
University of Kentucky

This summary is based on the eight tables herewith, and on the comparison of these data with the assessments of the change in the general quality of life given in the paper by McLean. As in the other papers on the S-79 knowledgeables, the county is the unit--that is, the data have been aggregated in terms of the percentage of knowledgeable respondents in each county giving a certain answer and these are presented in the form of the range and the median of the county percentages in each of the six states and for groupings of states. All of the measures are shown separately for white, minority, and total knowledgeable respondents and for Upper South and Deep South states as well as individual states. Based on the ranges and medians the assessments of the several aspects of life are compared with each other and with the general quality of life assessment, and white and minority knowledgeable's assessments are compared.

The assessments of change and present quality in these aspects of life are highly favorable. The assessments concerning the public schools are the least favorable of those in the education, welfare and health area and show the most intercounty and interstate variation.

Minority knowledgeables (black, except for one Mississippi county where they are Indians) tend to be somewhat more favorable in their assessments than do white respondents. This appears particularly true in regard to assessments of education, when all states are considered together.

There is a fairly general but not entirely consistent pattern for the Deep South States--Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and South Carolina--to differ from the Upper South States, Kentucky and Tennessee. In the sample counties of the Upper South States there are mostly very low proportions of Negro population and very few Negro knowledgeable respondents.

In their assessments of education and welfare conditions and programs, black respondents in the Deep South tend toward a more favorable view than white knowledgeables, while in the Upper South white respondents tend to be more favorable than blacks. This does not hold true in assessments of opportunities for education and training beyond high school, where practically everyone sees improvement. On medical care and health services assessments, also, there is little difference between white and black respondents.

Except in Kentucky, where there is little difference, the percentage saying the general quality of life in their county has improved is substantially higher than the percentage saying the public schools have improved. The two Upper South States are in contrast to the Deep South States, where those perceiving school improvement are far fewer. Though no direct question about school desegregation was asked, a negative perception of the effects of desegregation on the part of white respondents in the Deep South and a positive one on the part of minority respondents in the same states seems apparent in all the responses concerning public schools.

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In every state fewer respondents say that welfare programs have improved than say the general quality of life has improved; in Kentucky the difference is small, however. There is a similar pattern in the proportion saying the quality of life for poor people has improved, compared to the larger proportions saying the quality of life has improved "for most people" in the county. Among minority knowledgeable there is less difference in their answers to the two questions, with only Louisiana and Mississippi showing substantially fewer saying welfare has improved.

Generally the percentages saying medical care and health services have improved are similar to the percentages saying the quality of life has improved for most people. In Louisiana and Mississippi, however, fewer say health has improved than say the general quality of life has improved. Both minority and white respondents in the Deep South less often see improvement in health services than they see improvement in the quality of life for most people. In the Upper South both tend to see health program improvement more often than general quality of life improvement.

In the assessments of the present adequacy of the public schools the pattern of Deep South-Upper South differences is not the same or as clear as in the assessments of improvement. In both the Deep South and the Upper South taken as wholes, minority respondents rate the schools more favorable than white respondents. But Kentucky and Alabama are the two states where schools are rated highest by both black and white knowledgeableables, while South Carolina schools are rated lowest by white respondents and rather favorably by Negro respondents.

Among both minority and white respondents the present adequacy of medical care and health services is rated higher in the Deep South than in the Upper South. The Alabama ratings of both groups are the most favorable and those of Tennessee least so. The greatest spread in the county ratings is in South Carolina, where both whites and blacks in one county give an average rating of "poor" to their county's health services.

Conclusion

It seems clear that these observers, who are both knowledgeable about the institutional services in their counties and also in considerable degree responsible for them, feel that things have been going in the right direction in the last decade so far as education, welfare and health are concerned. The major exception are the white knowledgeableables in the Deep South, many of whom feel that the public schools have been getting worse or only holding their own. This is undoubtedly related to the desegregation that has taken place in that area during this period. The assessment by knowledgeableables of the current adequacy of the schools and health services in their counties seems more related to their perception of the direction of change than to any absolute national norms.

The pattern of Deep South-Upper South differences conforms to expectations, and the opposite tendencies in the assessments of black and white respondents in the two areas is hardly surprising. The fact that this pattern obtains with regard to public schools and welfare but not with regard to health seems in keeping with the universal societal valuation of health and the lower level of controversy and black-white issues

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in health programs as compared to schools and welfare. Since the statistics used in this analysis are necessarily rather "crude", it is comforting to find these patterns that seem to conform to other data and observations about the region. It will be interesting to see in later analysis how the assessments of a cross-section sample of household heads and homemakers compare with the perceptions of these officials and knowledgeable.

S-79 Rural Development and the Quality of Life in the Rural South

A. L. Coleman, University of
Kentucky, 2/1/74

Question 1 - In general, would you say that the public schools in this county have (1) improved, (2) gotten worse, or (3) remained about the same over the past 10 years? _____

<u>Notes</u>	<u>County Percentage Saying "Improved:"</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Median</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Kentucky and Tennessee have very few minority respondents	All Knowledgeables, 26 counties -	25 to 100%	70.5%	Kentucky most favorable, Tennessee next - Upper South. Mississippi least favorable, South Carolina next --then Louisiana and Alabama.
All are black except for one county in Mississippi with Indian respondents and no black respondents	Four Alabama counties	46 to 84	75.5	
	Four Kentucky counties	83 to 100	88.0	
	Five Louisiana parishes	53 to 85	63.0	
	Six Mississippi counties	25 to 78	39.5	
	Three South Carolina counties	58 to 63	59.0	
	Four Tennessee counties	57 to 90	78.0	
	All minority knowledgeable, 22 counties	29 to 100%	87.5	Minority knowledgeablees much more favorable than white in Deep South, white respondents more favorable in Upper South. Alabama and South Carolina (both Deep South) most favorable, Tennessee least so.
	Four Alabama counties	88 to 100%	100.0	
	Two Kentucky counties	75 to 100%	87.5	
	Five Louisiana parishes	67 to 93	80.0	
	Six Mississippi counties	66 to 100	83.0	
	Three South Carolina counties	93 to 100	100.0	
	Two Tennessee counties	29 to 100	64.5	
	Four Deep South states (Ala., La., Miss., S.C.)	66 to 100	87.5	
	Two Upper South states (Ky., Tenn.)	29 to 100	87.5	
	One Mississippi county, Indian Minority	66	66.0	
	All white knowledgeablees, 26 counties	7 to 100%	64.0	
	Four Alabama counties	30 to 79	66.5	Deep South knowledgeablees far less favorable than Upper South.
	Four Kentucky counties	80 to 100	94.0	
	Five Louisiana parishes	36 to 96	48.0	
	Six Mississippi counties	7 to 80	31.0	Kentucky, then Tennessee most favorable.
	Three South Carolina counties	38 to 46	44.0	
	Four Tennessee counties	63 to 89	78.0	Mississippi, South Carolina, Louisiana least favorable.
	Four Deep South States (Ala., La., Miss., S.C.)	7 to 96	44.5	
	Two Upper South States (Ky., Tenn.)	63 to 100	84.0	
	One Mississippi county, Indian minority	78	78.0	

Question 2--Everything considered, how adequate would you say the public schools in this county are now? Would you say that they are (1) very good, (2) pretty good, (3) only fair, or (4) poor?

<u>Notes</u>	<u>Mean County Rating (1.0=V.G., 4.0=poor)</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Median</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Kentucky and Tennessee have very few minority respondents	All Knowledgeables, 26 counties Four Alabama counties Four Kentucky counties Five Louisiana counties Six Mississippi counties Three South Carolina counties Four Tennessee counties	1.4 to 2.9 1.9 to 2.3 1.8 to 2.0 2.0 to 2.4 2.1 to 2.6 2.2 to 2.8 1.4 to 2.9	2.20 2.05 1.90 2.20 2.40 2.50 2.55	Kentucky most favorable Mississippi, South Carolina rather unfavorable. Tennessee most unfavorable (seems out of line--has greatest range between counties)
All are black except for the one county in Mississippi with Indian and no black respondents	All minority Knowledgeables, 22 counties Four Alabama counties Two Kentucky counties Five Louisiana counties Six Mississippi counties Three So. Carolina counties Two Tennessee counties Four Deep South states (Ala., Lou., Miss., S.C.) Two Upper South states (Ky., Tenn.) One Mississippi county, Indian minority	1.3 to 2.8 1.3 to 2.0 1.7 to 1.8 1.8 to 2.5 1.5 to 2.8 1.9 to 2.5 1.7 to 2.3 1.3 to 2.8 1.7 to 2.3 2.2	2.00 1.70 1.75 2.10 2.05 1.90 2.00 2.00 1.75 2.20	Alabama, Kentucky most favorable but not a lot of difference between states.
	All White Knowledgeables, 26 counties Four Alabama counties Four Kentucky counties Five Louisiana counties Six Mississippi counties Three So. Carolina counties Four Tennessee counties Four Deep South states (Ala., La., Miss. So. C) Two Upper South states (Ky., Tenn.) One Mississippi county, Indian minority	1.4 to 2.9 1.9 to 2.5 1.8 to 2.1 2.0 to 2.6 2.1 to 2.6 2.4 to 2.9 1.4 to 2.9 1.9 to 2.9 1.4 to 2.9 2.1	2.40 2.10 2.00 2.50 2.50 2.80 2.55 2.45 2.10 2.10	Deep South states have greatest spread between blacks and whites. Little difference between Indians and whites in one county.

Question 3. - In general, would you say that opportunities for people in this county to get education and training beyond high school have (1) Improved, (2) gotten worse, or (3) remained about the same during the past 10 years?

<u>Notes</u>	<u>County Percentage Saying "Improved":</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Median</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Kentucky data missing because interviewing was done with preliminary questionnaire that did not include this question.	All knowledgeable, 22 counties Four Alabama counties Five Louisiana parishes Six Mississippi counties Three South Carolina counties Four Tennessee counties All minority knowledgeable, 20 counties Four Alabama counties Five Louisiana parishes Six Mississippi counties Three South Carolina counties Two Tennessee counties Four Deep South states (Ala., La., Miss., S.C.) One Mississippi county, Indian minority	48 to 100% 100 87 to 100 74 to 100 88 to 95 43 to 87 67 to 100% 88 to 100 93 to 100 75 to 100 93 to 100 67 to 100 75 to 100 100 48 to 100% 100 84 to 100 68 to 100 85 to 92 48 to 89 68 to 100 95	93.5% 100.0 93.0 94.5 93.0 85.0 100.0% 100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0 83.5 100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0 92.0% 100.0 92.0 94.0 92.0 76.5 92.5 95.0	All states relatively favorable. Tennessee has one "low" county that pulls it down but generally it is the least favorable. All states highly favorable -Tennessee least so. Minority respondents substantially more favorable than whites. Deep South more favorable than Tennessee.
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S-79 Rural Development and the Quality of Life in the Rural South

A.L. Coileman U of K, 2/1/74

Question 4--In general, would you say that medical care and health services in this county have (1) improved, (2) gotten worse, or (3) remained about the same during the past 10 years?

<u>Notes</u>	<u>County Percentage Saying "Improved"</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Median</u>	<u>Comments</u>
All Knowledgeables, 26 counties	18 to 100%	87.5%	87.5%	Alabama and Kentucky counties uniformly very favorable.
Four Alabama counties	86 to 100	90.0	90.0	
Four Kentucky counties	90 to 96	92.0	92.0	
Five Louisiana counties	53 to 93	82.0	82.0	South Carolina counties show extreme variations.
Six Mississippi counties	74 to 97	82.5	82.5	
Three South Carolina counties	18 to 89	85.0	85.0	
Four Tennessee counties	60 to 97	94.0	94.0	Louisiana, Tennessee and Mississippi have some counties very favorable, some only moderately so.
All minority respondents	33 to 100%	36.5%	36.5%	Differences between minority respondents and white respondents are not great and appear to be random.
Four Alabama counties	88 to 100	100.0	100.0	
Two Kentucky counties	80 to 88	84.0	84.0	
Five Louisiana counties	67 to 93	86.5	86.5	
Six Mississippi counties	66 to 100	91.5	91.5	
Three South Carolina counties	50 to 86	68.0	68.0	
Two Tennessee counties	33 to 100	66.5	66.5	
Four Deep South states (Ala., La., Miss., S.C.)	50 to 100	86.5	86.5	
Two Upper South states (Ky., Tenn.)	33 to 100	84.0	84.0	
One Mississippi county, Indian minority	83	83	83	Tennessee and South Carolina show greatest range.
All White knowledgeables, 26 counties	8 to 100%	88.0%	88.0%	
Four Alabama counties	84 to 100	93.5	93.5	
Four Kentucky counties	92 to 96	95.5	95.5	
Five Louisiana counties	44 to 100	80.0	80.0	South Carolina appears to be a special case, with one very low county.
Six Mississippi counties	71 to 96	82.5	82.5	
Three South Carolina counties	8 to 92	85.0	85.0	
Four Tennessee counties	63 to 97	84.0	84.0	
Four Deep South states (Ala., La., Miss., S.C.)	8 to 100	84.5	84.5	Upper South-Deep South difference is not very apparent, though Upper South whites and a little
Two Upper South states (Ky., Tenn.)	63 to 97	95.5	95.5	
One Mississippi county, Indian minority	80	80.0	80.0	

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A. Lee Coleman, U of K, Revised 3/1/74

Question 5 - Everything considered, how adequate would you say medical care and health services in this county are at present? Would you say they are (1) very good, (2) pretty good, (3) only fair, or (4) poor?

<u>Notes</u>	<u>Mean County Rating (1.0=very good, 4.0=poor)</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Median</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Kentucky and Tennessee have very few minority respondents.	All knowledgables, 26 counties Four Alabama counties Four Kentucky counties Five Louisiana counties Six Mississippi counties Three South Carolina counties Four Tennessee counties All minority knowledgeable, 22 counties Four Alabama counties Two Kentucky counties Five Louisiana counties Six Mississippi counties Three South Carolina counties Two Tennessee counties Four Deep South states (Ala., La., Miss., S.C.) Two Upper South states (Ky., Tenn.) One Mississippi county, Indian minority	1.6 to 3.6 1.6 to 2.3 1.6 to 2.5 1.6 to 2.8 1.6 to 2.2 1.9 to 3.6 1.8 to 2.6 1.3 to 3.5 1.3 to 2.3 1.5 to 2.4 1.8 to 2.5 1.8 to 2.3 2.1 to 3.5 2.6 to 2.7 1.3 to 3.5 1.5 to 2.7 2.0	2.00 1.75 2.20 1.90 2.00 1.90 2.45 2.20 1.75 1.95 2.35 2.00 2.30 2.65 2.10 2.50 2.00	Differences between states and counties small. Tennessee and Kentucky least favorable. Alabama most favorable. South Carolina has greatest difference between counties with one county very unfavorable. Alabama blacks most favorable, Tennessee least so.
All are black except for one Mississippi county with Indian respondents and no black respondents.	All white knowledgeable, 26 counties Four Alabama counties Four Kentucky counties Five Louisiana counties Six Mississippi counties Three South Carolina counties Four Tennessee counties Four Deep South states (Ala., La., Miss., S.C.) Two Upper South states (Ky., Tenn.) One Mississippi county, Indian minority	1.3 to 3.6 1.6 to 2.1 1.7 to 2.6 1.3 to 2.9 1.5 to 2.9 1.7 to 3.6 1.6 to 2.6 1.3 to 3.5 1.5 to 2.7 2.0	2.00 2.00 1.70 2.20 2.00 1.80 1.80 2.00	Blacks less favorable than whites in Louisiana and South Carolina more favorable in Kentucky.
	Four Deep South states (Ala., La., Miss., S.C.) Two Upper South states (Ky., Tenn.) One Mississippi county, Indian minority	1.3 to 3.6 1.6 to 2.6 2.0	1.80 2.00 2.00	Alabama whites most favorable, Tennessee least so--same as blacks.
	One Mississippi county, Indian minority	2.0	2.00	No difference between white and Indian respondents in the one county.

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A.L. Coleman, University of Kentucky, 2/1/74

Question 6 - In general, would you say that welfare programs in the county have (1) improved, (2) gotten worse, (3) remained about the same?

<u>Notes</u>	<u>County Percentage Saying Improved:</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Median</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Kentucky and Tennessee have very few minority respondents.	All knowledgeable, 26 counties Four Alabama counties Four Kentucky counties Five Louisiana counties Six Mississippi counties Three South Carolina counties Four Tennessee counties All minority knowledgeable, 22 counties	59 to 100% 59 to 90 76 to 96 66 to 74 68 to 100 63 to 76 62 to 74 57 to 100%	74.0% 79.5 83.5 72.0 78.5 65.0 65.5 81.5%	Differences are not great--Kentucky most favorable.
All are black except for one Mississippi county which has Indian respondents and no black respondents.	Four Alabama counties Two Kentucky counties Five Louisiana counties Six Mississippi counties Three South Carolina counties Two Tennessee counties Four Deep South states (Ala., La., Miss., S.C.) Two Upper South states (Ky., Tenn.) One Mississippi county, Indian minority	75 to 100 63 to 80 73 to 85 62 to 100 57 to 100 71 to 100 57 to 100 63 to 100 83 to 89	100.0 71.5 73.0 83.0 86.0 85.5 83.0 75.5 83.0	Blacks somewhat more favorable in Deep South, no difference in Upper South (Kentucky and Tennessee cancel out).
	All white knowledgeable, 26 counties Four Alabama counties Four Kentucky counties Five Louisiana counties Six Mississippi counties Three South Carolina counties Four Tennessee counties Four Deep South states (Ala., La., Miss., S.C.) Two Upper South states (Ky., Tenn.) One Mississippi county, Indian minority	50 to 100% 53 to 89 78 to 96 60 to 72 65 to 100 50 to 69 57 to 74	73.0 77.5 86.0 67.0 85.5 69.0 65.5	Differences between states are not great. Kentucky counties most uniformly favorable.
				Differences are not great between states, either in range or median.
				70.5 76.0 90.0

Question 7 - In general, would you say that the quality of life for poor people in this county has (1) improved, (2) gotten worse, or (3) remained about the same?

<u>Notes</u>	<u>County Percentage Saying Improved:</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Median</u>	<u>Comments</u>
All are black except for one county in Mississippi with Indian respondents and no black re- spondents.	All knowledgeable, 26 counties	54 to 100%	86.0%	Alabama and Mississippi most favorable--both Deep South. But Miss- issippi has greatest range.
Kentucky and Tennessee have very few minority respondents	Four Alabama counties	81 to 97	92.5	Tennessee and South Carolina least favorable.
	Four Kentucky counties	76 to 96	84.5	No clear pattern except that Upper South blacks are less favorable than whites and blacks there are less favorable than those in Deep South.
	Five Louisiana counties	75 to 97	82.0	Carolina least favorable
	Six Mississippi counties	54 to 100	90.5	Carolina least favorable
	Three South Carolina counties	73 to 100	76.0	Carolina least favorable
	Four Tennessee counties	64 to 84	73.5	Carolina least favorable
	All minority knowledgeable, 22 counties	33 to 100%	84.5%	No clear pattern except that Upper South blacks are less favorable than whites and blacks there are less favorable than those in Deep South.
	Four Alabama counties	63 to 100	100.0	Range is generally greater for minority respondents.
	Two Kentucky counties	50 to 80	65.0	Indiana less favorable than whites in the one Mississippi county.
	Two Louisiana counties	79 to 93	87.0	Mississippi whites are most favorable--though their range is also greatest.
	Six Mississippi counties	33 to 100	91.5	Tennessee whites least favorable--but differences between states not great.
	Three South Carolina counties	64 to 100	75.0	Deep South more favorable than Upper South.
	Two Tennessee counties	67 to 71	69.0	
	Four Deep South states (Ala., La., Miss., S.C.)	33 to 100	87.0	
	Two Upper South states (Ky., Tenn.)	50 to 80	69.0	
	One Mississippi county, Indian minority	83	33.0	
	All White knowledgeable, 26 counties	58 to 100%	87.0%	
	Four Alabama counties	86 to 95	90.0	
	Four Kentucky counties	75 to 96	89.5	
	Five Louisiana counties	68 to 100	84.0	
	Six Mississippi counties	58 to 100	93.5	
	Three South Carolina counties	77 to 100	77.0	
	Four Tennessee counties	64 to 87	74.0	
	Four Deep South states (Ala., La., Miss., S.C.)	58 to 100	89.5	
	Two Upper South states (Ky., Tenn.)	64 to 96	81.0	
	One Mississippi county, Indian minority	95	95.0	

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Question 8.--On the whole, do you believe there are (1) fewer really poor people in the county now than in 1960, (2) about the same proportion, or (3) more of them in proportion to the total population?

<u>Notes</u>	<u>County Percentage Saying "Improved":</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Median</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Kentucky and Tennessee have very few minority respondents.	All knowledgeable, 26 counties Four Alabama counties Four Kentucky counties Five Louisiana counties Six Mississippi counties Three South Carolina counties Four Tennessee counties	17 to 94% 59 to 79 17 to 73 61 to 82 54 to 94 58 to 89 58 to 77	67.5% 68.0 56.5 67.0 75.0 59.0 65.0	Kentucky and South Carolina least favorable. Mississippi most favorable. State differences not great.
All are black except for one Mississippi County which has Indian respondents and no black respondents.	All minority knowledgeable, 22 counties Four Alabama counties Two Kentucky counties Five Louisiana counties Six Mississippi counties Three South Carolina counties Two Tennessee counties Four Deep South states (Ala., La., Miss., S.C.) Two Upper South states (Ky., Tenn.) One Mississippi county, Indian minority	0 to 100 33 to 86 0 to 73 43 to 93 50 to 100 36 to 86 43 to 67 33 to 100 0 to 73 100	63.5 44.5 36.5 60.0 92.5 50.0 55.0 67.5 55.5 100.0	Deep South States more favorable.
All white knowledgeable, 26 counties	24 to 93	70.0	70.0	Kentucky whites least favorable, Alabama most favorable.
Four Alabama counties Four Kentucky counties Five Louisiana counties Six Mississippi counties Three South Carolina counties Four Tennessee counties Four Deep South states (Ala., La., Miss., S.C.) Two Upper South states (Ky., Tenn.) One Mississippi county, Indian minority	63 to 78 24 to 72 61 to 83 51 to 93 62 to 92 58 to 78 51 to 93 24 to 78 71	77.5 52.5 68.0 72.5 69.0 72.5 72.5 67.5 71.0	Except for Kentucky, differences between states not great.	Deep South whites more favorable than Upper South.